Application No. 09/840,156 Reply to Notice of Allowance mailed February 9, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 22, 23 and 27 have been amended by the present amendment to correct minor typographical errors.

If the examiner deems that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03) Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Joseph A. Scafetta, Jr. Registration No. 26,803

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